GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1927
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2015
Ordinance for Restricting Extension of Tea Garden
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether the Government has taken note that Government of West Bengal had issued an order in 2001 prohibiting expansion of area of tea nursery and tea plantation in West Bengal;

b) if so, the details thereof;

c) the impact of the said order on small tea growers in the State indicating the number of tea growers affected thereby;

d) whether the Union Government has taken up the matter with the State Government to review the said order;

e) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the State Government thereto; and

f) the present status of the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (c): The Government of West Bengal has prohibited through an order issued on 23rd July, 2001 further development of tea nursery and tea plantation in new areas in North Bengal with effect from 30th June, 2001.

Under the provisions of Tea Act 1953, all the tea growers need to be registered with Tea Board after obtaining "No Objection Certificate" from the concerned State Government. In the absence of No Objection Certificate from Government of West Bengal, Tea Board is unable to register the small growers who have planted tea after 2001. Following the prohibition, the benefits of various subsidy schemes of the Tea Board could not be extended to these small growers. About 20,000 Small Growers in North Bengal are reported to be affected due to this development.

(d) to (f): The Central Government has taken up the matter with the State Government of West Bengal in July, 2015. The reply from the State Government has not been received.

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